

### **Testimony- Agueda Ocasio**

Good evening!

My name is Agueda Ocasio, I am a mother of two teenage girls. One of my daughters has chronic asthma.

It has been about two years since my husband and I separated and my financial situation had been dramatically changed. Even though I have a full time and part time job it was impossible for me to avoid the bills of my home and my daughter's needs. For this reason I needed to find a place that would support people my same situation, a place where I could feel welcome, and I could talk about my struggles. I decided to go to JUNTA. I received so much support and respect. I explained my situation to one of the employees and immediately she gave me with the information of how I can resolve my problems. She helped me apply for financial assistance to help me with my household bills. Junta helped me with my gas and electricity bill.

Without this help my daughter's and I wouldn't have had a warm place to live in a terrible winter like the one we are having right now.

But most important, my young daughter would not be able to administer her asthma medication through her electrical machine and would possibly lose her.

Without JUNTA, people like me would not be able to see life in a different perspective. I was down and out, and JUNTA helped me see that things could get better. Please, at this moment think the reality of how people are living today, especially those people that feel they have no place to turn to and may look for other ways to solve their problems because they are alone and unaware.

It's in your hands to save a family, to lead them to a better path. JUNTA is that path for so many of us.

I ask you to not eliminate funds from JUNTA. Our community needs JUNTA. I need JUNTA.